CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 - 32. (Cancelled).

33. (New). A method for enforcing a selected policy from a set of polices maintained by a policy server to be applied to a user interconnected to a network through a communication path, wherein the network includes a gateway and one or more resources, comprising:

receiving, by the gateway, a request from the user to access the one or more resources on the network;

selecting a user object from a plurality of stored objects, wherein the user object corresponds to the user and includes a set of attributes comprising a group to which the user belongs;

identifying a profile that applies to the user based on the set of attributes, wherein the profile includes an authorization parameter and a communication parameter;

determining, by the gateway, whether to grant or deny access to the one or more resources on the network based upon the authorization parameter; and

configuring the communication path based upon the communication parameter.

34. (New). The method of claim 33, wherein the network is a virtual network.

35. (New). The method of claim 33, wherein the set of attributes further includes a user name and password, further comprising:

determining whether to grant or deny access to the network based on the user name and password.

36. (New). The method of claim 33, wherein the step of configuring the communication path further comprises setting quality of service (QOS) parameters.

37. (New). The method of claim 33, further comprising:

determining a characteristic of the communication path between the user and the gateway; and

determining, at the gateway, whether to grant or deny access to the one or more resources on the network based on the determined characteristic.

38. (New). The method of claim 37, wherein the characteristic of the communication link is a call-back number.

39. (New). The method of claim 37, wherein the characteristic is a medium type.

40. (New). The method of claim 33, wherein the gateway is interposed between the user and each of the resources on the network.

41. (New). The method of claim 33, further comprising:
replacing the authorization parameter with an override attribute.

42. (New). The method of claim 33, further comprising:
replacing the communication parameter with an override attribute.

43. (New). The method of claim 33, wherein the communication parameter includes an authentication type and the step of configuring the communication path comprises setting the authentication type to be applied to the user.

44. (New). The method of claim 33, wherein the step of configuring the communication path comprises setting a bandwidth.

45. (New). The method of claim 33, wherein the step of configuring the communication path comprises establishing a network address assigned to the user.

46. (New). The method of claim 33, wherein the step of configuring the communication path comprises establishing an encryption level to be applied to communications between the user and the network.

47. (New). The method of claim 33, wherein the authorization parameter represents a time of day during which the user is permitted to access the network.

48. (New). The method of claim 33, wherein the authorization parameter represents a phone number from which the user is permitted to call and access the network.

49. (New). A computer-readable medium having computer-readable instructions for a method for enforcing a selected policy from a set of polices maintained by a policy server to be applied to a user interconnected to a network through a communication path, wherein the network includes a gateway and one or more resources, comprising:

receiving, by the gateway, a request from the user to access the one or more resources on the network;

selecting a user object from a plurality of stored objects, wherein the user object corresponds to the user and includes a set of attributes comprising a group to which the user belongs;

identifying a profile that applies to the user based on the set of attributes, wherein the profile includes an authorization parameter and a communication parameter;

determining, by the gateway, whether to grant or deny access to the one or more resources on the network based upon the authorization parameter; and

configuring the communication path based upon the communication parameter.

50. (New). The computer-readable medium of claim 49, wherein the network is a virtual network.

51. (New). The computer-readable medium of claim 49, wherein the user attributes further include a user name and password, further comprising:

determining whether to grant or deny access to the network based upon the user name and password.

52. (New). The computer-readable medium of claim 49, wherein the step of configuring the communication path further comprises setting quality of service (QOS) parameters.

53. (New). The computer-readable medium of claim 49, further comprising:

determining a characteristic of the communication path between the user and the gateway; and determining, at the gateway, whether to grant or deny access to the one or more resources on the network based upon the determined characteristic.

54. (New). The computer-readable medium of claim 49, further comprising: replacing the authorization parameter with an override attribute.

55. (New). The computer-readable medium of claim 49, further comprising: replacing the communication parameter with an override attribute.

56. (New). The computer-readable medium of claim 49, wherein the communication parameter includes an authentication type and the step of configuring the communication path comprises setting the authentication type to be applied to the user.

57. (New). The computer-readable medium of claim 49, wherein the step of configuring the communication path comprises setting a bandwidth.

58. (New). The computer-readable medium of claim 49, wherein the step of configuring the communication path comprises establishing a network address assigned to the user.

59. (New). The computer-readable medium of claim 49, wherein the step of configuring the communication path comprises establishing an encryption level to be applied to communications between the user and the network.